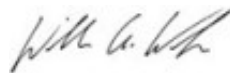


the right of access to court records is not absolute, the presumption favoring the public's right of access must be outweighed by competing interests before the court will seal a document. In re Knight Publ'g Co., 743 F.2d 231, 235 (4th Cir. 1984). When a district court considers entering a confidentiality order, it must first give the public notice and a reasonable opportunity to challenge the sealing order. *Id.* at 235; *see also* Stone v. Univ. of Md. Med. Sys. Corp., 855 F.2d 178, 181 (4th Cir. 1988) (extending application of the Knight requirements to civil cases). The court must also consider less drastic alternatives to sealing and, if it does enter a sealing order, it must provide "reasons for its decision to seal supported by specific findings, and the reasons for rejecting alternatives to sealing in order to provide an adequate record for review." In re Knight Publ'g Co., 743 F.2d at 235.

Here, Plaintiff fails to identify the confidential business information or otherwise state good cause to support its motion to seal. The protective order entered in the state action in California between Defendant and third parties has no bearing on the instant federal case. Should Plaintiff believe it necessary, it is free to seek a protective order in this case to ensure that confidential commercial information or trade secrets "not be revealed or be revealed only in a specified way." Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c)(1)(G).

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff's motion to seal [DE-64] is DENIED.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Raleigh, North Carolina on Wednesday, March 9, 2011.



WILLIAM A. WEBB
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE